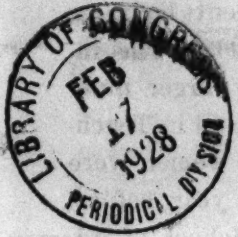


Equal Rights

VOL. XIV, No. 2
FIVE CENTS

SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 18, 1928



Times Wide World.

Laura Knight

The first woman associate of England's Royal Academy since 1769. Mrs. Knight has exhibited at the Academy since 1903 and has now been elected to membership. She is the first woman to achieve this distinction since Angelica Kauffman, who was one of the original members of the Academy.

Feminist Notes

Indian Woman Given Legal Post

THE first woman to receive the bachelor of laws degree at Rangoon University has been appointed assistant registrar on the original side of the Rangoon High Court. Her name is Daw Me Me Khin, B.A., B.L. It is the first time a woman has been given such an appointment in India.

A Woman's Party in Germany?

A MOVEMENT to form a woman's political party for the country's total 35 electoral districts with Dr. Marie Lueders, the present Democratic deputy in the Reichstag, as the party's candidate for the next Reichstag elections, is reported by the provincial papers.

Commenting on this news, the *Demokratischer Zeitungsdienst* writes:

"While it is not all surprising that women seek to gain the political recognition to which by reason of their numbers and social significance they are entitled, their leaders are sufficiently clever to realize that the formation of a distinct women's party would hardly be the means of insuring the imposing feminine representation in the Reichstag that is desired.

"We are therefore inclined to interpret the rumor of the projected political woman's party rather in the light of a warning to the other political parties in future not to sidetrack women when choosing their parliamentary candidates."

New York Bar Favors Domicile Bill

THE New York Bar Association's Committee on the Amendment of the Law has announced that it favors the bill before the New York State Legislature granting a married woman Equal Rights with a man or an unmarried woman to establish her domicile. The bill provides that a married woman shall establish her domicile in the same manner as the right of a person to hold office or to vote or for taxation.

And Daughter

ALTHOUGH many women have been, in fact, partners in their father's or their husband's business, it is very seldom that the fact has been legally appreciated. A firm of fishmongers, poulterers, and fruiterers in Caterham, England, has just been registered as H. Marment & Daughter, Ltd. H. Marment of Ascot says that during the war his daughter, Amy F. Marment, kept the business open, and he wished to give her an interest in it by inclusion in the title. Other fathers might give the same acknowledgment.

Women in British Local Government

WOMEN in Great Britain are eligible for membership of all local authorities, including county, borough, urban and rural district councils. The number of councils in England and Wales is 1,859, but only about 1,365 elected women members have seats upon them. The total membership must be very large, since 145 of the larger councils (i. e., county and county borough councils) have together almost 9,000 members. On these predominant councils there are only 298 women, or 3.3 per cent. of the whole.

In addition to the councils with their wide and varied powers, there are the Boards of Guardians, which are concerned solely with the administration of the poor law. The position of women on these boards is better, since there are about 2,300 women members out of a total of 20,000, or 11.5 per cent.

There is now a proposal before the country, promulgated by the Minister of Health, to abolish boards of guardians, the poor law institutions being then handed over to county councils and domiciliary assistance to necessitous persons entrusted to committees of the local councils. Legislation has not been yet introduced on these lines. When the Government Bill appears, as may happen in the next session of Parliament, it will be carefully scrutinized by the National Council of Women, since the abolition of boards of guardians would involve the disappearance from local administration of almost two-thirds of women elected for local government purposes.

Meanwhile, certain proposals have been drafted by the Public Service Committee of the National Council of Women with the object of diminishing some of the difficulties that are believed to stand in the way of election of women to local councils; and these will be sent to the Royal Commission on Local Government. This commission is now engaged in investigating the relations between the several local authorities, and is to make recommendations as to their constitution, areas and functions. The problems are, however, very complicated and progress is slow. The commission has already been sitting for more than four years and appears to be far from the end of its labors.

To Train Women for Aviation

THE Aerial University which the United States Air Force Association plans to establish near Washington, D. C., will train men and women alike for aviation, according to its announcement.

Women Outnumber Men at Columbia

FOR the first time in the history of the institution, women students in Columbia University outnumber the men in the undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools.

There has been a steady growth in the ratio of women in attendance for the last twenty years, women now constituting 50.7 per cent. of the student body as against 32.5 per cent. in 1908. The increase is due in part to the larger numbers in the graduate schools and in Teachers' College, where 750 more women were enrolled last year than the year before. The establishment of the School of Library Service and the inclusion of oral hygiene within the group added 150 more.

Woman Political Agent

EVA PARNELL-BAILEY is the first woman to be appointed political agent of the Liberal Party in England. She is a fully qualified member of the Society of Certified and Associated Liberal Agents, and has been appointed to the Finchley Division of Middlesex.

Doubting the Efficacy of Laws

APPARENTLY even the former ardent advocates of special labor legislation for women in industry are beginning to doubt the infallibility of laws in this respect.

The *Public Ledger* (Philadelphia) quotes Charlotte E. Carr, director of the Pennsylvania Bureau of Women and Children, as saying: "Men and women generally are beginning to realize that we must look before we leap in the matter of corrective industrial legislation. There is a strong feeling against too much legislation, and in favor of an informed approach by the voter."

She urged that improvements be made in factory management which would "insure better health to women employees without in the least affecting their commercial status as workers," and said that heads of manufacturing plants are welcoming suggestions for such improvements.

"The whole trend of correction in industrial conditions is away from the 'rest-room' idea and toward better conditions in which to work. That is where the economy of an informed public opinion comes in. We don't want to pass a law that may be practical five years from now. We want to know conditions and pass laws that will be practical today," she said.

Mrs. Lawrence Lewis

MRS. LAWRENCE LEWIS, an officer of the National Woman's Party since its beginning, died at her home in Philadelphia on January 31. Funeral services were held at noon on February 2 at the Church of St. James the Less, Falls of Schuylkill.

From the time the Congressional Committee was formed under Alice Paul's chairmanship in 1913 until the day of her death, Dora Lewis worked on the executive body of the organization which first worked for the enfranchisement of women by amendment to the United States Constitution, and then for full equality between men and women by constitutional amendment. With Miss Paul, Lucy Burns, Mary R. Beard, and Crystal Eastman, Mrs. Lewis formed the executive committee in 1913, and when the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage was organized in 1914, these five, with Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, Mrs. Gilson Gardner, Elsie Hill, and Mrs. William Kent, formed the executive committee.

Mrs. Lewis served four sentences during the suffrage campaign, her sentences totaling eighty-three days. Her first sentence was for picketing in July, 1917, and her last for participating in the watchfire

demonstration in January, 1919. She held many offices in the Woman's Party, being finance chairman in 1918, national treasurer in 1919, and chairman of the Ratification Committee in 1920.

Descended on her maternal side from a family which took possession of a land grant in Connecticut from the King of England in 1660, and on her paternal side from Michael Hillegas, who came to Philadelphia in 1727, Mrs. Lewis is of a family which has always rendered distinguished service to its country. A member of the Hillegas family was the first treasurer of the United States. Michael Hillegas was a founder of the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts.

Mrs. Lewis took part in the first hunger strike in Occoquan Workhouse. Of her experience with forcible feeding, she wrote:

"I was seized and laid on my back, where five people held me, a young colored woman leaping upon my knees, which seemed to break under the weight. Dr. Gannon then forced the tube through my lips and down my throat, I gasping and suffocating with the agony of it. I didn't know where to breathe from and everything began turning black when the fluid began pouring in. I was moaning

and making the most awful sounds quite against my will, for I did not wish to disturb my friends in the next room. Finally the tube was withdrawn. I lay motionless. After a while I was dressed and carried in a chair to a waiting automobile, laid on the back seat and driven into Washington to the jail hospital. Previous to the feeding I had been forcibly examined by Dr. Gannon, I struggling and protesting that I wished a woman physician."

A year after her first arrest, Mrs. Lewis was the first speaker at the demonstration at the base of the Lafayette monument. Before she had finished her first sentence, she was seized by a policeman and placed under arrest. This was her third arrest for suffrage. The final arrest was in the following January.

One might think that this struggle would have been enough for Mrs. Lewis, that she might rest on her laurels after women were enfranchised, knowing that she had fought a good fight until the victory was won.

But the victory was not complete, and Mrs. Lewis knew it. Therefore she devoted the rest of her life to work for the Equal Rights Amendment.

Who Shall Decide

(The Vote, Friday, January 20, 1928.)

By R. M. Ewen

"SHOULD married women go to business?" asked a friend of mine. I replied that they should not if they did not want to. Neither should a married man stay at home and run the house and attend to the children unless he particularly wanted to.

My friend remarked that he wished I would be serious. Now, earnestly, I meant what I said. No one tells the husband that he ought not to stay at home and nurse the children and wash the floor and so on, but should mother click the typewriter keys or take up an agency, folk on every side begin asking whether she ought to be allowed to do these things.

The other day, Miss Jones married Mr. Brown, but she still goes to business, and don't the neighbors talk! They say it is disgusting for a married woman to go to business while single girls cannot get work. Today I see in the paper that Miss Johnson is going to marry Mr. Smythe. Miss Johnson is the daughter of a well-known shipbuilder, and Mr. Smythe is on the staff of the firm. I have not heard that he has given notice. Neither have I heard that he is expected to live on his wife's income, as otherwise he will be doing another poor chap out of a job.

I wonder whether anybody does really think we women are emancipated. "Should married women go to work?" Who, indeed, will tell us what we should do? Shall we listen to the voice of men who

seem to live in fear of losing their predominance, or shall we listen to our unmarried sisters? Can they tell us better than we know ourselves whether we can manage a home and business, too, or shall we be treated like reasonable adults and be left to decide for ourselves?

Because woman, like man, gives way to a natural desire to get married, a certain section of society think that by so doing she forfeits her right to any further choice as to how she shall spend the remainder of her life. Are women expected to treat their home like a convent? Are they expected to allow home life to hem them in from the outside world? Having to bear children because the opposite sex will not oblige, must they also forfeit their right to a career and independence if they desire it?

The vast majority of men are only too willing to place all family and home responsibility on the woman's shoulders, but when she takes the responsibility of disposing of her own services as she pleases, they question her right to do so.

The psychologists tell us that repressions are at the root of many evils. If women do not get married and have children, their character and health usually suffer. At the same time, it will be de-

trimental to the whole family if the mother who prefers her former career to that of attending to children is forced through conventions to abstain from continuing the career of her choice. Surely many will see that this must often happen, and that for the children's sake alone it would be better if someone who was really fond of rearing children should have charge of them while the mother follows her calling.

First, I have mentioned the "Two incomes question" that is often brought forward. Secondly, the children have been taken into consideration, and, I fear, disposed of in a way that will not satisfy the good, kind, but illusioned souls who still fancy that all mothers love bathing babies.

Next, we must consider the home. Does the wife who goes out to business spoil home life? My opinion is that if both the husband and wife have been away from home all day, they will feel more inclined to remain at home in the evenings and during holidays, whereas if the wife has not been out at all, she is likely to be in a hurry to leave her four walls. The husband may wish to stay at home and enjoy the seclusion of his fireside. To him it is a relaxation. These diverse interests, I fear, must cause as much if not more trouble in the home than a wife's independence.

Equal Rights



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MEMBERSHIP OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

Annual Dues	\$10.00
Associate Members	\$1.00
Subscribing Members	\$3.00
Founders	\$100.00
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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT

"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 64.]

Introduced in the Senate, January 4, 1928,

by SENATOR CHARLES E. CURTIS.

Woman's Party Methods

WHEN the break between the National American Woman Suffrage Association and its Congressional Committee, headed by Alice Paul, occurred many years ago, resulting in the organization of the Congressional Union, the precursor of the National Woman's Party, the cry was that the tactics of the younger group were injurious to the suffrage movement. Every parade we held, every demonstration we staged, was alleged to have "set back woman suffrage" by this or that increment of time. And this, mark you, was long before the full-fledged militant tactics incident to war-time Feminist propaganda.

When we marched in the street, when we engaged a brass band, when we called publicly, so to speak, upon a member of Congress or a legislatureman, our conservative sisters hid their faces for shame, and begged us not to be a disgrace to the cause which they represented. But we kept right straight on and finally the vote was won.

Now it is never becoming to place laurels upon one's own brow, but there are many Congressmen who say that the reason why we won the vote when we did was because of the tactics of the Woman's Party. Naturally that is not hard for us to believe.

In the new science which is called "Mass Education" and which is first cousin to ordinary advertising, a certain justification for the opinion of our flattering Congressmen can be found. The methods intuitively followed by the Congressional Union, and later by the Woman's Party, are singularly in line with the general principles now advocated by the proponents of mass education. "The greatest amount of publicity for the smallest expenditure of money" is one of the principles laid down. "Never let people forget" is another. "Don't use words, use plays, pageants and parades"; so it goes, a complete vindication of the methods we have always utilized.

And the funny part of it is that people have grown accustomed to our methods, have learned to like, even to copy them.

The publicity the Woman's Party is receiving in Havana is incomparable; friendly, interested, sympathetic. But we venture to assert that if we had used the same methods we are using in Havana ten, or even five, years ago, the conservative advocates of Equal Rights would have been reduced to tears at our boldness. *Tempora mutantur.*

A New Way to Fight Women

OUR enemies occasionally do something ludicrous and vindictive enough to reveal the absurdity and injustice of the ordinary discriminations against women. Assemblyman Breitenbach of Kings County has introduced in the New York State Legislature a bill providing for a tax of 20 per cent. on the incomes of married women who are employed in industrial or professional pursuits, provided their husbands earn more than \$2,000 a year. An exemption of \$500 would be provided for each minor child.

The New York Times quotes the assemblyman as follows:

"The purpose of this legislation is not to find another source of revenue, but to eliminate a deplorable condition. The old-fashioned wife to whom marriage is the only career is being replaced by many of those employed married women who flout the sacredness of marriage and militate against the purposes of marriage—the propagation of children.

"This will tend to eliminate unemployment by stopping married women from seeking employment and will have them manage their homes, rear their children, and make better companions to their husbands."

At least Assemblyman Breitenbach is honest enough—or guileless enough—to admit that his proposed legislation, which has not the slightest chance of being adopted, is definitely designed to keep married women from being independent, to confine them to one career, regardless of their preferences and necessities, and to force them into subservience to their husbands.

It would be a great help if our other opponents were equally straightforward. Assemblyman Breitenbach speaks frankly with the voice of the tyrant, the caveman. Far better for Equal Rights than if he adopted the soft tones of a "protector."

Intimate Glimpses of Havana

LETTERS from Mrs. L. S. Houston, Cuban member of the National Woman's Party's International Advisory Council, to Edith B. Newman of Washington, D. C., one of those most helpful in working with the National Woman's Party to bring Equal Rights before the Pan-American Conference, paint an intimate picture of the epochal events in Havana.

The following extracts will give some insight into the way women are working together in Havana, and into the gratitude felt by women of the southern republics for the work of the women of the National Woman's Party:

"HERE I am again at my desk in my blessed Villa Sol, my desk piled high with newspapers from which I am sending you many clippings, so that together with my meagre data you may keep posted on the work which is being done for the great cause of all women, which I know is so close to your heart. I have already recounted to you the work which was done for the reception of your countrywomen who have so unselfishly thrown themselves into the work for the women of my race and their future descendants. You asked me to gather together the various factions of Cuban women with whom we worked so happily back in 1922 when we organized here in Havana that First National Congress of Women of Cuba.

"Since the arrival in Havana of Miss Stevens and Mrs. Smith we have been in a whirl and, oh, how I wish you might be here for this Pan-American Conference, for you would be a factor of special force as you understand us and also your own people, so that as there are so many things on both sides to adjust, your understanding would be of much assistance.

"Maria Collado's Democratic Suffrage League opened its doors to a most impressive reception party to these Northern women, at which they both spoke, as did Maria and myself, and the Cuban lawyer who directs this particular organization by his counsel, which I do not rate very highly, since among the idiotic things he gave voice to, was this 'that he feared the time was not yet ripe for Cuban women to vote.' Miss Stevens answered him with much eloquence and right argument.

"After that very enthusiastic reception, we have had the most wonderful support from the press as a whole for our cause and your brave and inspiring countrywomen have had the courtesy from the newspaper contingent, which is amazing, showing that courage, unselfishness and enterprise are really appreciated.

"A demonstration is planned for Marti day in Central Park around the statue

of the Cuban patriot (our George Washington, you will recall). There will be speeches there by those who are to voice their demand from the delegates to the conference of the granting of civil and political rights to all women of the Americas, and God grant that among those thus to voice their demand there may be one like Isabel Alquizar, lawyer and a woman of calm judgment, whom you formerly knew down here.

"What I have time to write you, must be filled out by newspaper clippings, since all cannot be said in a letter, but I will try and make a sort of bulletin of the stages we are passing through.

"Yesterday at the Club Femenino there was an enthusiasm which was delirious. It was gratifying, as you will recall, I wrote you just before Miss Stevens and her group arrived, that I could not get any note of interest from this club, which is our leading woman's organization, but I think this was due to the lack of a leader, the president, Mrs. Emma Kopez Seña, being seriously ill at her home. However, on this afternoon, no fault could be found with the response these Cuban women showed. There were some two hundred of the club's most representative women present, and as Emma had asked me to speak for her, I did so, and my voice was hoarse with feeling, choked with love for this great cause of women, and for the great party Miss Stevens and her group represented, which works so loyally and with such abnegation for all women, and I lifted the spirit of those women who were present by the fire of my words for the cause of Equal Rights for the women of my race and all others. They stood up as a sign of their admiration and respect for the visiting advocates of their cause when these Northern women were presented to them by me, and I am proud and happy to have had this opportunity to show my own sentiments publicly. I gave the two ladies beautiful flowers and they received prolonged applause and a tremendous ovation. I find them most attractive, and full of energy, and the most satisfying intelligence in this work.

"JANUARY 22. You will note from the press clippings that your splendid Mr. Hughes has promised the workers for political and civil equality of women that their demands shall be heard and tomorrow a meeting will be held of the different women's organizations here and Miss Stevens and the delegates agreed that this conference offers a happy opportunity for the study of a first treaty in history proposed by women for women. Mr. Hughes said that he congratulated the women on their courage in this Herculean task, but that he was not sur-

prised at their enterprise. Miss Stevens told him the women did not want new international laws enacted excluding women and asked Mr. Hughes to use his influence in their behalf.

"I am frank to confess my skepticism as to any favorable result, since these are all men, and no woman's voice is heard, and you know how men work things out to suit themselves, regardless of a woman's views.

"JANUARY 28. I have not written for a few days, as I have been ill with fever, and so am not able to be present at the demonstration which is to take place today at the Marti statue in Central Park, and which has been organized by Miss Stevens and her group. This is Marti Day as you will remember, and the demonstration is to be a beautiful one. I will send you the pictures and clippings. First comes the Club Femenino. After them come the various women's organizations, and lastly all out-siders who wish to take part, so that there is a very great promise of a tremendous affair. Some of the women carry banners with words of the Cuban patriot in Spanish and English. One of these is 'Women are as much deserving of the right to vote as men,' or a sentiment much like that. Upon reaching the Marti statue twenty-one women dressed in pure white will free some two thousand carrier doves with messages to all the Republics attending the Pan-American Conference, these doves being furnished the National Woman's Party by the Colombofilo Company for this beautiful feature. Each dove carries a message. I sent two carrying the following: 'Equal Rights for women are axiomatic rights,' and 'I ask the fact of suffrage for woman, since it is her right.' You will see that from the beginning I have done all I could to help and, am sorry, indeed, not to be able to be with them today, but * * * on the other hand, here I can be talking to you, my dear friend.

"I would love to be able to say that I believe the work of your countrywomen will be crowned with success, but I much doubt it. These men have but one concept of women. They are not like my dear partner in my home, who always says, 'It is a disgrace that woman has to plead for that which should be granted her without asking.'

"JANUARY 29, Sunday. In accord with my own wishes and those of Mrs. Smith I am sending and will continue to send all the press comments on the situation here with respect to our great cause. I am so pleased that they are uniformly encouraging and most flattering. These women are marvelous. They

are doing everything and have been so doing in order to make progress, and if anything is obtained at the conference it will be thanks to them alone.

"As this will go by the air mail you will receive it very shortly, and you may inform Miss Paul that everything is progressing better all the time. I am still ill with the grippe and feel myself very dull-witted in sending these lines.

"JANUARY 31, and now I am sure you have not complained of lack of news since I have not delayed sending you all that I can obtain. This is because of my interest in the National Woman's Party, and I hope you will so state to Miss Paul. I can tell you that Mrs. Smith and Miss Stevens have with their dynamic force lighted the torches which will illumine the pathway of justice up to the granting of

equality of civil and political rights for women, as they are to permit these women to present their arguments at a full session of the Conference which I believe is to be next Monday at 11 A. M.

"Miss Stevens and Mrs. Smith have given great blows to the boulder in their pathway, and knowing this as well as I do is the reason I appreciate what they are accomplishing. The boulder has broken apart and through the opening will pass Latin-American women, all due to the perseverance and wisdom of the National Woman's Party.

"I was fearful that the tree to be planted, which was to be termed the Tree of Inter-American Fraternity would be the sepulchre of the rights of women, down among its roots, but this will not be so now, thanks to the National Woman's Party, and from the branches of this

tree there will burst forth blossoms of union, peace and of equal civil and political rights for all the women of America.

"You will realize how delighted and encouraged I am over this result so cleverly and patiently worked out, since from the first I have been skeptical, but now we await the great day.

"So my dear friend, until later when I shall fully post you of the rest of the matter."

THESE letters from Mrs. Houston were read at the dinner of the Business and Professional Women's Section of the Women's City Club, Washington, D. C., on February 8, just following the hearing given the Feminists in Havana. Laura Berrien read them for Mrs. Newman, whose illness prevented her from presiding at the dinner.

Propose Law to Remove Disabilities

THE married woman's disabilities will be stricken from the French Civil Code if the French Parliament adopts the report of the Commission on the Revision of Laws relating to Women. This much has been made known, although the complete report will not be ready until about Easter. The commission has been at work for about two years. The *Union Francaise pour le Suffrage des Femmes* was instrumental in securing its appointment. It is composed of men, but among them are a number of Feminists. It is headed by M. Matter, advocate-general of the Court of Cassation.

An interview with M. Matter is reported in *La Francaise* by Marcelle Kraemer-Bach, whose pamphlet, "Legal Inequalities between Men and Women" was reviewed in a recent number of EQUAL RIGHTS.

"The task of the commission," she says, "is not easy. The code is a structure from which it is difficult to remove some of

the stones without disturbing others. Provisions often overlap. Certain principles having been admitted, conclusions must be deduced from them, but at the same time unity must be secured in the bill under consideration in order that, as a government measure, it may be introduced into both chambers without too much delay and discussion."

M. Matter observes that the family in the French civil code is based on the authority of the husband, the head of the family, the "pater familias," a legacy from the Roman law. It suited an era when women had no part in business or public life. But this part of the code is now behind the times. Many of its principles are otherwise out of date. Provisions appropriate to landed property do not meet the needs of a time when personal property has become so important.

The community property governed by

the code is landed property, but the law does not safeguard the wife's interests when the fortune is personal. M. Matter points out that in response to changed conditions the laws have already become more flexible, but that the present situation requires new laws.

"This," he says, "is the task which devolves upon our commission. It has finished the first part of its work, that which deals with the disabilities of married women in general. It has abolished Article 213 of the Civil Code and all the consequences which flow from it with regard to the husband's authority. The wife is given control of her person. * * * There remains the second part of our task, to deal with the *regime matrimoniale*."

In this matter, the commission favors the practice of separation of property, with the common ownership of property acquired after marriage, a system already used to a considerable extent in France.

Press Comment

Claims Attention of Women

By Corinne Frazier
Sunday Star,
Washington, D. C.,
January 29, 1928.

WITH the eyes of the Americas focused on Havana, Cuba, where our own President recently opened the sessions of the Sixth Pan-American Conference, the attention of the politically-minded women of the States represented is attracted naturally to the battle which is being waged for the passage of a resolution providing for Equal Rights for men and women in the American continent by means of a sweeping international treaty.

To the Latin American women it would mean emancipation from the present hard-

ships of almost complete political ostracism in addition to the gain of civil rights; to the Feminists of North America it would be the final step in the struggle for complete equality which has already been rewarded by success politically and in the revision of many civil laws.

The National Woman's Party, the outstanding Feminist organization of the United States, has sent a delegation to Havana to ask the Pan-American Conference to adopt this treaty, which is to be submitted to the governments of the 21 American republics.

"The agenda of the Havana Conference calls for the consideration of measures for extending to women the same civil

rights as those enjoyed by adult males," Mabel Vernon, national executive secretary of the Woman's Party, said at National Headquarters. "The initiative in bringing this matter before the conference came from Guatemala and Costa Rica, whose delegates at the last Pan-American Conference introduced the Equal Rights proposal and caused this subject to be included in the program of the present conference.

"It would seem that the women of the United States who believe in Equal Rights should give all possible backing to this proposal. We are therefore asking the conference to embody equality for men and women in treaty form and submit it

to all the American republics for ratification. When this is done there will be no place within these 21 republics in which will remain any vestige in the law of the discriminations against women which have so long obtained."

According to Miss Vernon this is the first time that a treaty for women has ever been proposed by women. The members of the delegation now in Havana are Mrs. Clarence M. Smith of New York, national chairman of the Woman's Party; Miss Doris Stevens, chairman of its committee on international action; Mrs. Valentine Winters of Dayton, Ohio, member of the National Council, and Muna Lee of the Porto Rican branch of the organization.

Women Crowd Pan-American Congress Hall

*Reprinted from the
Havana Post,
February 8, 1928.*

MORE than a thousand women, champions of the cause of Equal Rights in the 21 republics of America, yesterday crowded the galleries, stairways and even the conference floor of the University of Havana Great Hall, where their orators clamored for women's rights and Pan-American Conference delegates listened attentively throughout the long warm afternoon.

It was Woman's Day at the conference, and no opportunity was overlooked to impress upon delegates the sincerity with which women are attempting to obtain the insertion of an Equal Rights-for-women clause in the projected codification of international law, up for the approval of the conference. Dr. Julia Martinez, pioneer in the Feminist movement in Cuba, wearing sombre black, made the opening plea.

She was followed by Mrs. Jane Norman Smith, president of the National Woman's Party of the United States, dressed in a tan silk frock. Mrs. Smith received a great ovation when she presented a strong defense of women in the struggle for equality. Her address was translated into Spanish and delegates and gallery proved enthusiastic hearers.

Attired in modish black with cuffs and collar of white lace, Miss Doris Stevens, chairman of the National Woman's Party Commission on International Action, delivered the keynote address, her speech being simultaneously translated into Spanish. She was lavish in gestures and her address was well received by the audience. She shook hands with Dr. Bustamante, president of the conference, before and after her address.

Other speakers, all vehement in their pleas, appeared in the following order: Maria Montalvo de Soo Navarro, president of the National Federation of Fem-

inine Associations of Cuba; Muna Lee, president of the Porto Rican branch of the National Woman's Party; Angela Mariana Zalbidar, Cuban woman lawyer; Pilar Jorge de Tella, founder of the Cuban Feminine Club and representative of 15,000 working women of the republic.

A petition bearing 5,000 signatures, asking the conference to give full consideration to the cause of women's rights, was read by the general secretary. Various eulogies of the Feminist movement and their work here were delivered by delegates. At the end of the long session only about one-third of the delegates remained present.

The occasion marked the first time women have ever been officially heard at a plenary session of any Pan-American Conference.

*Time and Tide,
London, England,
January 20, 1928.*

ONE interesting new development is worth noting. A delegation of women is waiting upon the conference to ask that a definite treaty securing to the women of all the countries of North and South America certain common fundamental rights shall be entered into at the conference. It appears that, at the last conference held five years ago, the civil status of women was one of the items upon the agenda, but that the conference had not, on the present occasion, had any intention of discussing this matter. The women are asking for the ratification of a treaty amongst the nations of the Union preventing any discrimination against women in the laws of any of the countries concerned. They are also asking that in future there shall be women delegates at the conference and women on all the commissions. The delegation, which is headed by Miss Doris Stevens of the American National Woman's Party, is composed of women from all over the two continents. This piece of international action is of especial interest not only because of the possibility of a big advance being made in the status of women of all the nations of the two American continents, but also in itself, since (except for the action taken at the time of the formation of the League of Nations Union) it is the first occasion upon which women have demanded a special treaty on their own behalf. The affair may be regarded as something of a portent.

Concerning Women's Wage

*Independent
Woman,
February, 1928.*

INFREQUENTLY has an article in the *Independent Woman* attracted as widespread attention as that of Roger W. Babson, published in the December issue, which

dealt with the question of Why Women Are Underpaid. Clippings and editorials and symposia dealing with the article drift into the *Independent Woman* office almost daily. Some of the writers agree with, others challenge Mr. Babson's claim that women fail to achieve a superlative measure of business success because of impermanence.

One of the latest journals to take up the subject is EQUAL RIGHTS, organ of the National Woman's Party. Admitting that Mr. Babson's analysis is "astute, practical and true so far as it goes," EQUAL RIGHTS assails his contention that "even if the married woman remains in business after her marriage her employer has no guarantee that she is permanently a member of his staff. Her plans are naturally subservient to those of her husband. She is no longer a creature of her own will."

"We do not believe," says EQUAL RIGHTS, "that the plans of a married woman are 'naturally' subservient to those of her husband. We believe they are artificially so. That this is a physiological fact in any way associated with love or sex or the welfare of the human race we emphatically deny. It is merely one of the ideals of an outgrown age, useful in its day, but dangerous and subversive to the economic development of women at the present time. Public opinion expects women to abandon their business interests upon marriage. It pursues them with hue and cry, even with laws, rules and regulations, if they elect to follow their own chosen work instead of their husbands. Public opinion must be remade, brought up to date, until marriage shall mean to a woman what it does to a man—no less and no more."

Without venturing a comment upon the opinion of EQUAL RIGHTS save to say that it is an interesting addition to the agenda of the Babson controversy, we would supplement it by this further suggestion: that if Mr. Babson's accusation that they are an impermanent factor in business is in any measure sound, the remedy lies with women themselves. Perhaps in a high-powered age such as ours emphasis has shifted to the more glamorous qualities which make for business success and stability has been lost sight of as a business asset. If permanence possesses the value to an employer which Mr. Babson maintains that it does, then it is within the grasp of all of us who are doing satisfactory work in the positions which are now ours. We need not drift from job to job—particularly if this drifting ties an economic millstone about our necks and those of our fellows. Having found the right niche, we can fit into it, and thus help to negative Mr. Babson's argument by sheer weight of evidence.

Editorial

*Birth Control
Review,
January, 1928.*

THE very poor mother recognizes that birth control is the foundation of her liberty. The more conservative groups of women also recognize its importance. The League of Women Voters is, State by State, either endorsing or studying the subject as a legitimate part of their program. Congresses of mothers, mothers' and women's clubs are asking for speakers on birth control, and so are the women's political clubs. Only the advanced Feminist group holds aloof. Yet birth control affects women far more vitally than men and freeing contraception from the hindrances of prohibitory legislation is not merely offering women a protection; it is yielding to them a fundamental right. From the National Woman's Party program of "Complete Equal Rights" with men (EQUAL RIGHTS, June 18, 1927) birth control was omitted. Last August we pointed out editorially that without birth control the program of the party was incomplete; that until birth control was included, the vast majority of women, mothers of the poor and middle class, would obtain no share of freedom from their efforts. For unlimited maternity would put most of these women always at a disadvantage. EQUAL RIGHTS replied in an editorial which we reprint in this issue. From this editorial it would seem as if the National Woman's Party

strove not for any particular laws, but for general blanket legislation giving Equal Rights in all relations of life, and in making all laws, and that they hold legal rights to be of no value without psychic freedom.

This is not a fair summary of the National Woman's Party program. Blanket legislation for Equal Rights they do push. They do work for blanket Equal Rights in marriage, but at the same time they push very definite concrete legislation for such partial rights in marriage as those concerning property, earnings, equality in divorce and equal guardianship of children. If women work for a law giving them Equal Rights to children born, why should they not work for a law, even more vital, giving them the right to determine whether or not children shall be born to them? If the aim of the National Woman's Party is complete equality between men and women it cannot consistently appear in a legislative hearing in support of an equal guardianship law, while it absents itself from the hearing on a birth control bill. That to work a revolution in the psychology of women is difficult we agree, and we agree that the ideal method of getting the largest number of women on their side is to choose "a program of common justice on which women of all shades of opinion can unite." But we submit that with this object in view they can choose no better subject than birth control. For it is proved to us over and over again by the thousands of wom-

en with whom we come in contact that there is a widespread emotional response to birth control by women to whom as yet the other items of a Feminist program mean very little.

The demand for birth control is aggressive, and with nine women out of ten it is their first demand. It is their first awakening to the ideal of women's rights. Birth control is the foundation on which a feminism of the future, including all classes of women and opening all of life and opportunity to them, can be built. There never was offered in a woman's program a fundamental demand for freedom and self-realization on which so large a body of "women of so many shades of opinion" were ready and waiting to agree. The National Woman's Party is not unfriendly to birth control. We believe that a poll of this fortunate group, whose freedom to strive for equality for women has, as part basis, their own access to contraceptive information would show a majority of them eager to have the right to contraceptive information made universal. We ask that the subject be brought on its merits as a Feminist demand before the next convention of the party. We believe that the convention will recognize that, as one member of their party expressed it, unlimited childbearing is the "tap-root of woman's subjection" and will decide that birth control should be included as fundamental in its program of equality in marriage.

News from the Field

Equal Rights for Teachers in Rhode Island

A BILL to prevent discrimination between men and women teachers in the Rhode Island schools has been introduced in the Rhode Island Senate by Senator Cruise, one of the seven Senators who voted for the bill in the last session of the Rhode Island Legislature. Sara M. Algeo is working for the bill, which was drafted by the National Woman's Party. Mrs. Algeo is Rhode Island State chairman of the National Woman's Party.

District Branch Cables Conference

FOLLOWING the presentation on Tuesday, February 7, to the Pan-American Conference in Havana of a proposed treaty establishing the principle of Equal Rights between men and women, the District of Columbia Branch of the National Woman's Party sent a cable to Charles Evans Hughes, chairman of the United States delegation, requesting that the delegation support the Equal Rights proposal.

The cable, signed by Mrs. Emile Berliner as chairman, reads as follows:

"The District of Columbia Branch of the Woman's Party urges the United States delegation to support the proposed Equal Rights treaty.

"We protest against any international code being drawn up affecting women without women being consulted."

Equal Rights in Virginia

A STAFF correspondent of the Washington Post on February 4 reports as follows the fate of the Equal Rights measure before the Virginia State Legislature:

"Another Senate committee killed a bill proposing Equal Rights for men and women after a hearing at which all of Virginia's women's organizations opposed the measure on the ground that it would take from them the right to force their husbands to support them. The measure was one fostered by the National Woman's Party."

We cannot but wonder why he says "all of Virginia's women's organizations opposed the measure," when certainly the

Virginia State Branch of the National Woman's Party, headed by Sophie G. Meredith of Richmond, has been earnestly working for its passage.

Nor can we quite believe that Virginia women would rather be dependent than independent and free. If the correspondent reported the opposition of the women correctly, we cannot believe that they truly represented the preference of Virginia women.

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